emn demeanor, Chief Justice Warren Burger looks as if he had been cast for the part by Hollywood. But if he looks like a Chief Justice ought to look, he doesn't always behave as a Chief Justice should behave.

We caught him, for example, meddling improperly in the legislative process. He sent Rowland Kirks, the chief administrator of the federal courts, to lobby with Speaker Carl Albert against certain provisions of the safe products bill. Lawyer-lobbyist Thomas Corcoran, who accompanied Kirks to the Speaker's office, told us Kirks acted as Burger's representative. Corcoran and Kirks presented to the Speaker arguments that Burger had made four days earlier before the American Bar Association.

Now Burger, in a letter to the Speaker, has denied his role in the lobbying mission. "Any responsible person who wanted to secure the facts," he wrote, "could have secured them from me." The truth is that we made repeated attempts to get a comment from Burger. After our column appeared, half a dozen Supreme Court correspondents jointly submitted several written questions to Burger. He still hasn't responded.

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Burger's Dissembling—With his white pompadour and sol-

McKay: Wa Post 10/20/72